

Re. : Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed November 23, 2007
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

II. REMARKS

Claims 27-30 and 32-35 are currently pending and the Office Action rejected Claims 27-30 and 32-35. By the foregoing amendments, Applicant amended Claims 27 and 32, and added new Claims 37-40 to further clarify, more clearly define, broaden the claimed invention, expedite receiving a notice of allowance and/or to place the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(f), no new matter is introduced by these amendments. Applicant believes that Claims 27-30, 32-35 and 37-40 are in condition for immediate allowance over the cited references.

Applicant's attorney of record, Richard C. Gilmore, respectfully thanks Examiner Noah C. Hawk and the Examiner's supervisor David Dunn for the courteous personal interview that was conducted on January 23, 2008. During the interview, the Office Action mailed on November 23, 2007 was discussed. In addition, the cited references, pending claims, proposed claim amendments and proposed new claims were discussed. As stated in the interview summary prepared by the Examiner, it was agreed that the proposed claims read over the prior art of record.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Claims 27-30, 32-35 and 37-40 are allowable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that a Notice of Allowance be promptly issued.

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If any further impediments to allowance of this application remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone so that these remaining issues may be promptly resolved.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, which have not otherwise been paid, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178. If any additional extension of time is required, which have not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefore and charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 23, 2008

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